



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Ways and Means
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce & Industry
Health
Higher Education

KEVIN A. CAHILL
Assemblymember 103rd District

CHAIR
Assembly Insurance Committee

December 13, 2016

Nancy Mills, Chair
City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Commission
467 Broadway
Kingston, New York 12401

Dear Commissioner Mills:

I write in response to your recent letter written as Chair of the City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the United States Coast Guard consideration of a plan to establish ten new designated anchorage sites with the potential for forty three additional berths along the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston. I have made note of the collective trepidation shared by your members and appreciate you sharing their views.

I have long held many of the same concerns and upon first hearing about this, contacted the Coast Guard to inquire about many aspects of this proposal. In particular, I sought clarification of safety and quality regulations, mitigation of effects on residents and native ecosystems, possible light and noise pollution and specific transport rules in regard to petrochemicals and gas or oil. Additionally, I asked for contingency plans for large vessels navigating in shallow areas and a timeline for input from area residents and concerned individuals.

In responding, they stated that the public comment period that ended on December 6th, 2016 was the first phase of their process and because they have made no decision about whether they would establish new anchorages, let alone how many and where, it was difficult to provide answers to my queries. They did point out that the request for additional sites was voiced by commercial vessel owners and other interested operators, not the Coast Guard itself. I then reached out to every constituent in my Assembly District who resided within one-half mile of the Hudson on both shores to make sure they were aware of their opportunity to voice their opinions and provided information on how to do so.

Now that this initial phase has concluded, I continue to follow this matter closely as the Coast Guard compiles the results. I am proud of my unsurpassed record as a champion of the environment and a determined and successful protector of our mighty Hudson River. I remain a vocal advocate for our shared interests as I keep a careful watch on this process, assuring that the needs of those who navigate this River to provide goods and services to New Yorkers and beyond do so with as much reserve as possible, making certain that there are no harmful effects on the River ecology, the environment in general or for residents who reside in proximity.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this matter. Please feel free to call or write anytime in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kevin Cahill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Cahill" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin A. Cahill
Member of Assembly

KAC:kk